genuine grievances of the employees. Employees demands Grievances are also looked into at this Ministry's level in the regularly held Departmental Council meetings. In such meetings, it is always impressed on the staff side to avoid strikes and agitation to press for their demands and be concerned about the needs of patients and the community. It is also impressed that those who act against public interest, appropriate disciplinary action as per rules is taken.

External loan burden on India

136. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total external loan burden of India as on the 31st March, 1991 in terms of rupee, S.D.R. and dollar;

(b) what are the amounts that come under short term loan and long term loan and rate of interest thereon;

(c) what is the total repayment of debt service obligation of India in terms of rupees, S.D.R. and dollar in the year 1990-91;

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to off set the deficit in repayment of debt service obligation, if any; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to harness the abundantly available resources of N.R.I. funds to have adjustment in balance of payment, which is adversely affecting India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The total external long term debt burden on India as on 31st March, 1991 is estimated to be Rs. 99485 crores. In dollar terms it comes to US $ 51493 million and in S.D.R. terms it comes to SDR 37468 million converted at exchange rate prevalent on that date.

(b) The short term debt outstanding as on 31-3-91 is estimated to be Rs. 8810 crores. The long term external debt burden as on 31st March, 1991 is estimated to be Rs. 99485 crores. The rate of interest varies from country to country and loan to loan.

(c) Total debt service payment i.e. repayment of principal and payment of interest during 1990-91 amounts to Rs. 9614 crores. In dollar and SDR terms it comes to US $5383 million and SDR 3859 million respectively.

(d) External loans are being repaid on due dates according to terms and conditions of each loan.

(e) Many schemes/facilities to attract N.R.I. investments are in existence. The Government attaches great importance to investments by N.R.I. and has taken a number of steps to make such investments attractive.

Direct Investment with full repatriation benefits can be made by NRIs in new issues made by all companies (Non-FERA) upto 40 per cent and upto 74 per cent in specified priority industries, 3, 4 and 5 star hotels, air taxies and advanced diagnostic centres. In other areas, investment is permitted with an export commitment of at least 60 per cent and 75 per cent for areas reserved for small scale. Investment upto 100 per cent can be made in 100. per cent export oriented projects including 3, 4 and 5 star hotels and in the revival of sick units. Direct investment on non-repatriation basis can be freely made by NRIs except in projects related to real estate, agriculture and plantation.

Arrears of payment to Coffee growers

137. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of arrears of payment against the sale proceeds of the pool products of the Coffee growers, sold in auction, pending with the Coffee Board;

(b) what are the reasons for inordinate delay in making payments to the Coffee growers after their products have been sold in auctions; and